

**Abstract of the Disclosure**

A switch unit included in one optical node is configured by a plurality of switch circuits having ports the number of which is fewer than that of lines to be accommodated by the switch unit. Since the plurality of switch circuits are mutually independent as sub-switches of the switch unit, the entire switch unit does not become a complete group switch.

Accordingly, the line that is accommodated by each of the sub-switches is determined by a service provided to a user accommodated by the line. The switch unit is configured by independent sub-switches as described above, whereby an optical node having a simple configuration can be implemented with small and inexpensive switches. Furthermore, a service provided by the optical node can be easily added by replacing a sub-switch.